## Lights! Camera! Action!

Every week in Hollywood, a new movie opens. Many times, the big movie studios stage a huge Hollywood premiere complete with searchlights shining in the night sky, movie stars walking down the red-carpeted entrance to the theater and reporters interviewing the celebrities as they arrive. Sid Grauman (1879-1950), who built the famous Egyptian Theater (and later, the Chinese Theater) on Hollywood Boulevard, started the tradition of these grand premieres in 1922.



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## Marilyn's Theme

Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) began her movie career with a bit part in a 1947 film. After acting in small roles for several years, she gradually dominated the American movie screen, becoming a true movie star in the 1950s. Since that time, she has remained an American film icon and the epitome of Hollywood glamour. Today, this legendary actress is revered by many as the most famous woman of the 20th century and still has fans all around the world.



## **Tinseltown Toccata**

Most of the earliest American films were produced in New York and New Jersey. As the industry grew, movie producers were drawn to southern California because of the mild climate and the variety of scenery. By the 1920s, numerous movie companies had established themselves around the Hollywood area of Los Angeles. American films garnered worldwide attention, making the name "Hollywood" synonymous with the values and styles of American movies. Hollywood is often referred to as "Tinseltown," a name that has its origins in a witty observation by Oscar Levant (1906-1972). Levant, an actor, composer and pianist, was quoted as saying, "Behind the phony tinsel of Hollywood lies the real tinsel."

With those words, the name "Tinseltown" was born.

